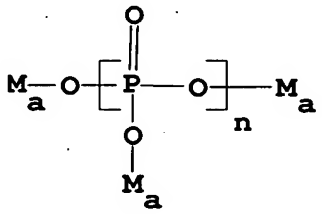
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion containing pyrogenically produced oxide particles of titanium, zinc, iron or cerium having an average particle size, expressed as a median value, in the dispersion of less than 200 nm, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the particle sizes of the oxide particles are not distributed symmetrically in the dispersion and the dispersion contains as dispersing agent at least one (poly)phosphate corresponding to the general formula I



I

wherein

M= H, an alkali metal, alkaline-earth metal, ammonium ion, Zn^{2+}, Al^{3+}, Fe^{2+}, Fe^{3+},

a= 1 or if M is a divalent cation, a = 1/2, if M is a trivalent cation, a = 1/3

with M being identical or different, and ~~which~~ wherein said aqueous dispersion has a pH value of 4.5 to 7.5.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the metal oxide particles include the oxides of titanium, zinc, iron, cerium, mixed oxides thereof, and the mixed oxides of the above-mentioned oxides with aluminium or silicon.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the surface of the metal oxide particles is modified by means of organic compounds.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to ~~claims 1 to 3, characterised in that it~~ claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion contains ~~preferably~~ 20 to 60 wt. %~~, particularly preferably 30 to 50 wt.%,~~ metal oxide particles.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to ~~claims 1 to 4, characterised in that it~~ claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion contains ~~preferably~~ 0.2 to 30 wt. %~~, particularly preferably 0.5 to 15 wt.%~~ of (poly)phosphates corresponding to the general formula I.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to ~~claims 1 to 5, characterised in that it~~ claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion contains other auxiliary substances and additives.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to ~~claims 1 to 6, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein within the pH range of 4.5 to 7.5 [[it]] said aqueous dispersion exhibits a zeta potential of less than –20 mV.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Aqueous dispersion according to ~~claims 1 to 7, characterised in that it~~ claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion has a viscosity of less than 2000 mPas at a shear rate of 100 s-1.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Process for preparing the dispersion according to ~~claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a stream of an initial dispersion, which contains pyrogenically produced metal oxide particles, in each case at least one (poly)phosphate corresponding to the general formula I, water and optionally additional auxiliary substances, is divided into at least two substreams, these substreams are placed in a high-energy mill under a pressure of at least 500 bar~~, preferably 500 to 1500 bar, particularly preferably 2000 to 3000 bar,~~ and are released through a nozzle and impact upon one another in a gas- or liquid-filled reaction chamber and are ground.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Process according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the dispersion is ground several times by means of a high-energy mill.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of the~~ A method for preparing a cosmetic formulation comprising adding an aqueous dispersion according to ~~claims 1 to 8 in the preparation of cosmetic formulations~~ claim 1 to said cosmetic formulation.

Claim 12 (New): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion contains 30 to 50 wt. % metal oxide particles.

Claim 13 (New): Aqueous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous dispersion contains 0.5 to 15 wt.% of (poly)phosphates corresponding to the general formula I.

Claim 14 (New): Process for preparing the dispersion according to claim 1, wherein a stream of an initial dispersion, which contains pyrogenically produced metal oxide particles,

in each case at least one (poly)phosphate corresponding to the general formula I, water and optionally additional auxiliary substances, is divided into at least two substreams, these substreams are placed in a high-energy mill under a pressure of 500 to 1500 bar and are released through a nozzle and impact upon one another in a gas- or liquid-filled reaction chamber and are ground.

Claim 15 (New): Process for preparing the dispersion according to claim 1, wherein a stream of an initial dispersion, which contains pyrogenically produced metal oxide particles, in each case at least one (poly)phosphate corresponding to the general formula I, water and optionally additional auxiliary substances, is divided into at least two substreams, these substreams are placed in a high-energy mill under a pressure of 2000 to 3000 bar and are released through a nozzle and impact upon one another in a gas- or liquid-filled reaction chamber and are ground.